

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Trying to keep the gates open since 1911

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1995

SECURING A PLACE Africana studies part of a new McGill?

BY ROBIN PERELLE

Twenty-six years ago McGill University finally agreed to establish an interdisciplinary African Studies Program, and students have been struggling to sustain it ever since.

The recent release of Principal Bernard Shapiro's proposal *Towards a New McGill* has again raised doubts about the program's place in the university's future, as it suggests that faculties that are not financially self-sufficient may soon be eliminated.

Last Tuesday, members of the Africana Studies Committee (ASC) presented their own vision document to Dean of Arts Carmen Miller. In it they stressed the importance of maintaining curriculum diversity at all costs, and asked the University to re-affirm its commitment to the study of Africa in particular.

"With all due respect to Principal Shapiro he is one member of this university community... I think that most educators and students will recognise that the bottom line is not the only consideration and, quite frankly, I do not believe that McGill has the support of its students in pursuing a Darwinian approach to education," stated Melanie Newton, political coordinator of McGill's Black Students' Network (BSN).

"I don't think a serious education at any university in this world can exclude the continent of Africa or the study of peoples of African descent," she added.

Astrid Jacques, last year's political coordinator of the BSN, agreed. "[We must not forget] the rich history of people of African descent, all of the great men and women on whose backs the Americas were built. It is important that these facts not be forgotten, especially in a university setting."

Prioritising curriculum diversity

In their 18-page proposal entitled *Redefining our priorities: Africana Studies and the Future of McGill*, the ASC urged the University to put curriculum diversity before budget cuts.

"While we genuinely understand the university's economic predicament, financial issues cannot be addressed at the expense of the educational integrity of the university," the document states.

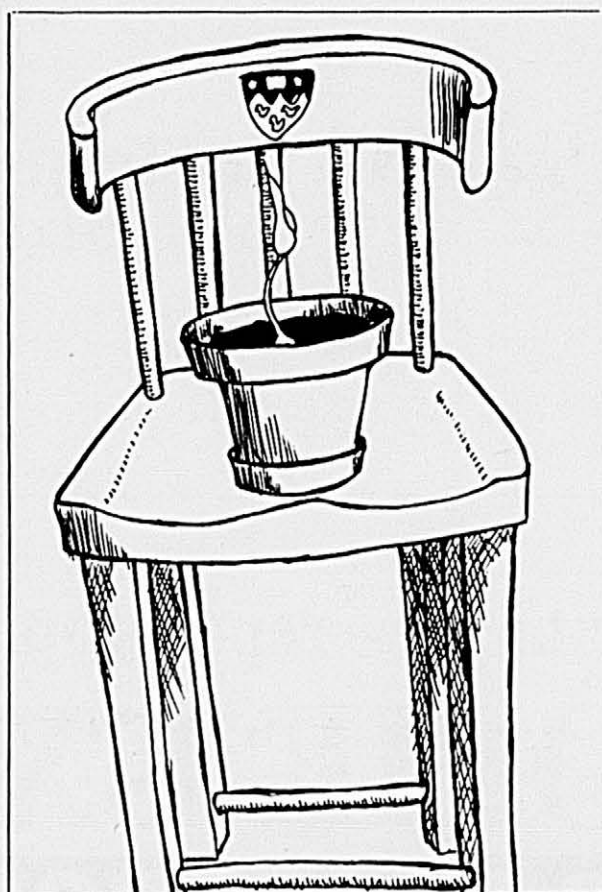
"It is in the best interests of the university, the students, and the future

of academic diversity that a strong commitment is made to a truly integrated education. Maintaining the African Studies Program would be a step in the right direction," the document continues.

The ASC is eager to help McGill honour this commitment. Its members have offered to raise \$200 000 towards the establishment of an African Studies chairperson, who would devote his or her time to running the interdisciplinary program and to providing it with the solid foundation it needs for eventual expansion.

"The African Studies Committee is committed to raising \$200 000 for the establishment of a chair for African Studies and we are asking McGill for the remainder. A precedent has already been set in the case of the Bronfman \$10 million donation to Canadian

Studies, which was readily duplicated by McGill," says the document.



DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO

Newton said she thought the plan was well-received by Dean Miller, though its implementation is still far from assured.

"He called it an attractive initiative and he proposed a lot of concrete things that he could do to help... I believe in his sincerity but he is not the only person who is going to be making decisions about this. There is a lot of lip service right now about creating a new McGill, [but] I have yet to see any clear evidence that this new McGill will not in fact simply be an updated version of a 19th century McGill in terms of curriculum diversity," she said.

What survival depends on

"What I hope will be clarified over the next few months is his position on the Chair because that is the ultimate goal of the proposal.... [H]istory has shown that the program

won't really be secure until it has a Chair," Newton continued.

In the past, McGill administrators have been reluctant to support the program and help it find the funds it needs to survive. Dwindling resources, a lack of available courses and a general lack of commitment have continually left the program in danger of being cut.

The ASC insisted that the time has come for McGill to adjust its priorities to meet the educational needs of its diverse student population.

"The world is changing and academic discourse is changing with it... It is too late to go back and undo the damage caused by centuries of academic racism and neglect. However, we can move with the times and begin to treat the study of Africa and the African peoples with the academic respect that it deserves," the committee stated in its proposal.

Mebrat Beyene, last year's cultural coordinator of the BSN, suggested that the main problem confronting McGill's African Studies Program right now is not a lack of funds but the administration's reluctance to search for funds for that area of study.

"It's always said that funds are short all around but it's a question of priority. It has become explicitly clear that McGill has absolutely no interest in African Studies, otherwise they would work as hard to solicit funds [for this program] as they do for other programs," Beyene told the *Daily* last year.

Members of the ASC are not the only students interested in maintaining interdisciplinary programs like African Studies at McGill.

This fall, the Students' Society established its own Think Tank to gather student input on the future of McGill. It agreed that there is a strong demand for interdisciplinary study at this university.

"A number of students argued that academic innovation, especially in terms of program diversity and interdisciplinary work, is integral to the provision of a high-quality education," stated *Making McGill*, the Think Tank's response to Principal Shapiro's *Towards a new McGill*.

Concluded Newton, "McGill and McGill students have a real opportunity here not just in terms of curriculum but in terms of this being a chance to re-define how students and the administration relate to each other in terms of establishing the direction of programs. I think student input is long overdue at McGill."

Director dismissed

Head of Facilities Management fired as result of investigation

BY JACQUELINE REIS

McGill's Vice-Principal of Administration and Finance Phyllis Heaphy called members of the campus press to her office last Monday to clear up rumours of Blake McGibbon's sudden dismissal on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

McGibbon, director of the Department of Facilities Management, had been responsible for the department of 400 people since 1992.

Heaphy, speaking on behalf of Principal Bernard Shapiro, who was in Hong Kong at the time, explained that the findings of an ongoing special audit by internal investigators had resulted in McGibbon's dismissal.

There were "a number of facts brought up in the investigation that justified this," said Heaphy, who added that she thought the investigation would hopefully be completed in the coming

week.

She also stated that there had never been an investigation of this extent and nature before in the Department of Facilities Management.

McGibbon is the only one to be dismissed as a result of the investigation thus far.

Heaphy would not say why the investigation was initiated but thought it had been in progress for approximately two months.

When asked to confirm a rumour that McGibbon had been escorted from his desk by security guards, Heaphy replied, "There are certain procedures that are followed. I can tell [you] that it was all done with a great deal of dignity and that there were no incidents of interest."

No outside law enforcement officials had been notified of the issues surrounding McGibbon's dismissal as of last Monday.

"We believe the administration of McGill is dealing with this difficult matter expeditiously and that we've got it under control," she concluded. "The message is things are under control and we're dealing with the situation."

McGibbon, who had been at McGill since 1986, stated last Friday that he was not prepared to make any comments at that time and had taken legal counsel on the matter.

The Department of Facilities Management, which does not fall under Heaphy's mandate, is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and repairs of the university's facilities. Although the department contracts out some projects, Heaphy stated that it uses mainly university staffers.

Associate Physical Resources Vice-Principal Sam Kingdon, to whom McGibbon was directly responsible, would not comment on the investigation or McGibbon's dismissal.

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THE MCGILL DAILY

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November 27th at 5pm
November 28th at 2:30pm
November 29th at 12pm
November 30th at 4pm
November 1st at 4pm

All meetings will be held in Room 425 of the Shatner Building and will last approximately half an hour.

THE BEATTY MEMORIAL LECTURES
COMMITTEE PRESENTS



LE COMITÉ DES CONFÉRENCES
COMMEMORATIVES BEATTY PRÉSENTE

Yves Coppens

From Africa
the Cradle



to America
the New World

The prehistory of man and the peopling of the earth

Thursday, November 30, 1995, 6pm
Fieldhouse Auditorium (Leacock 132)
McGill Welcome Centre 398-6555
Admission is free

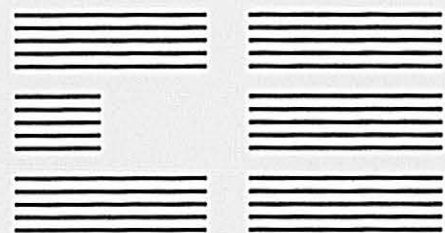
This conference was made possible with the support of the Consulat général de France au Québec

McGill

Jeu 30 novembre 1995, 18h
Amphithéâtre Fieldhouse (Leacock 132)
Accueil McGill 398-6555
Entrée libre

Cette conférence a été rendue possible grâce à l'appui du Consulat général de France au Québec

M. Coppens répondra en français aux questions qui lui seront posées dans cette langue



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EDITORIAL

Towards a new McGill?

The winds of change are sweeping across Canada, driven by deficits, the threat of global competition and cries for back to basics. Hounded by the apocalyptic vision of an uncontrollable deficit, administrations are defining good and bad and separating the essential from the superfluous.

Too often, though, these acts of definition are committed without the input of those who will be affected. Using the all-powerful mantra of "new realities" and "fiscal imperatives," people in positions of power have marginalised other voices.

With the release of his document *Towards a New McGill* and his appointment of a committee to examine it, Principal Bernard Shapiro placed himself—and possibly the future of McGill—in the mainstream of this movement.

The 25 points of reform mentioned in the document attempt to respond to the changing fiscal and political reality of McGill, Québec and Canada. Citing a new "globalised and complex economy" and the "over extension" of governments' financial resources, Shapiro proposes a radically re-worked McGill.

Some of the proposals will seem promising, if not incredible, to McGill students: a 10-1 student/professor ratio; a reformed library system; "excellence in undergraduate teaching" and the possibility of one term abroad for each student.

These golden promises are overshadowed, however, by the proposed financial and administrative changes to McGill.

Of great concern is the admission that tuition fees may have to compose a greater portion of McGill's revenue in the future. In response, Shapiro proposes a system like that of elite American private universities, where students who can pay receive a prestigious degree and those who can not attend a less prestigious institution. But Shapiro believes the cost to accessibility that any tuition fee hike will necessarily entail would be offset by greater financial aid packages.

Any student should be wary of moving towards such a system. The prospect of a huge jump in tuition fees is unacceptable given the government's and McGill's lack of dedication to maintaining the principle of accessibility to education. This situation would be exacerbated by the simple fact that unemployment is endemic among youth. Any rise in tuition fees—certainly one to the level that would be necessary to support a 10-1 ratio—would make McGill even more exclusive than it already is.

Along with a rise in tuition fees, McGill could increase its revenues, according to Shapiro, by greater partnership with corporations and the privatisation of some McGill faculties and departments.

This would further erode the university as a public space. Shapiro makes little acknowledgment that more than the financial reality of McGill is in transition. Privatisation would bring a substantial loss of academic autonomy, as deals with corporations would lead to ever increasing constraints on teaching and learning.

Academic autonomy would be further destroyed through Shapiro's suggestion that programmes' survival would be determined by their profitability. Any hope for a degree of curriculum diversity—witness the ongoing neglect of Africana Studies—would end

with the adoption of this profits-only attitude.

This university is in need of fundamental reform. Any talk of reform, however, must situate our changing financial situation within the context of the vision of this university and the place of knowledge in this society. The entire debate cannot be framed by finances, budgets and revenues.

New ideas are currently questioning the basis of what is "known" to be "true" in the university today. Nowhere in *Towards a New McGill* is this acknowledged. Likewise, the fundamental re-evaluation between the teacher and the taught is not discussed.

In sum, these proposals do not really seem to improve McGill as a public space designed for the improvement of society through the creation and exchange of knowledge.

The vagueness that surrounds Shapiro's suggestions is also disconcerting. Who will define "profitable"? Who will decide when a professor displays "excellence" in teaching? If Shapiro's past actions are any indication, he will not ask students.

We are told of this "new" McGill in a decidedly old McGill manner. The Principal, along with other "senior executives" has come down from the mountain with stone tablets inscribed with the path to the promised land.

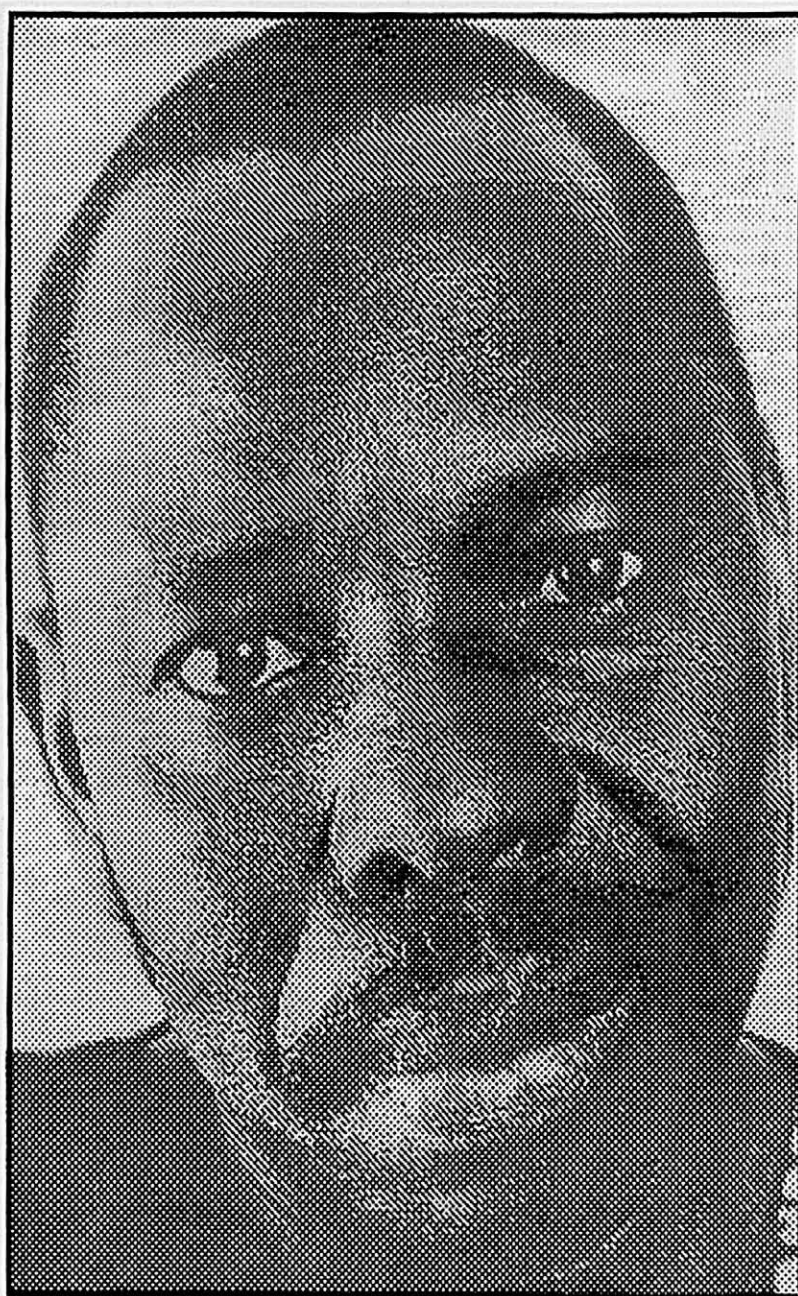
No students were involved in the creation of *Towards a New McGill*. Although Lisa Grushcow, Students' Society v-p university affairs, will sit on the committee Shapiro appointed to examine these proposals, the starting point for discussions has already been set without student input.

Luckily, the Students' Society has already formulated their own policy document through the findings of Grushcow's Think Tank and open forums. *Making McGill* recognises that students are the fundamental unit of the university and that any discussions on the future of this university must include all voices from all corners of this campus. Not only undergraduates but graduate students, staff and faculty must be a part of the forum to decide our common future.

The Arts Undergraduate Society Forum on Wednesday night with Shapiro, Dean of Arts Carmen Miller and Grushcow hopefully will be only the first meeting in a dialogue which must encompass the entire university. Students must sit beside faculty and staff in any discussion of the university's future to ensure that our common concerns for this community are paramount. These discussions must form the basis for a new McGill, arrived at by a broad coalition of interests.

As a community, we need to re-imagine McGill. Certainly, economics will constrain our field of view, but they must not blind us to the consequences of putting balanced budgets before the ideals of this institution and its place in the Montréal and global community.

Beyond dollars and cents, this debate is about the vision of a university within a community. As a site of the creation and exchange of knowledge, the role of McGill to examine and shape society is profound. If we create an academic community with an elite nature and corporate goals, we will have abdicated our potential to be a positive force for social change.



Kenule Beeson Saro-Wiwa
1941 - 1995

"We all stand before history. I am a man of peace, of ideas. Appalled by the denigrating poverty of my people who live on a richly endowed land, distressed by their political marginalization and economic strangulation, angered by the devastation of their land, their ultimate heritage, anxious to preserve their right to life and to a decent living, and determined to usher to this country as a whole a fair and just democratic system which protects everyone and every ethnic group and gives us all a valid claim to human civilization, I have devoted my intellectual and material resources, my very life, to a cause in which I have total belief and from which I cannot be blackmailed or intimidated."

Clearing up clubs and services TO THE DAILY,

I was happy to see your positive coverage of the proposed changes to SSMU Council representation ("Time to change SSMU structure? Nov. 20). But I must clarify a few facts.

McGill Nightline is not a service of the SSMU. In fact they are funded by the Alma Mater Society.

As you mentioned, Walksafe, Black Students' Network, and the Sexual Assault Centre are SSMU services, but you neglected to list other important services. The others are: McGill Women's Union, Player's Theatre, McGill Students Network, Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Students of McGill and the Volunteer Bureau.

One last thing: Chris Carter does not only represent services, and thus his title is "Clubs Rep" not "Services Rep."

Thank you.

SARA MAYO

CLUBS REPRESENTATIVE TO SSMU COUNCIL

LETTERS

THE STAFF OF THE MCGILL DAILY

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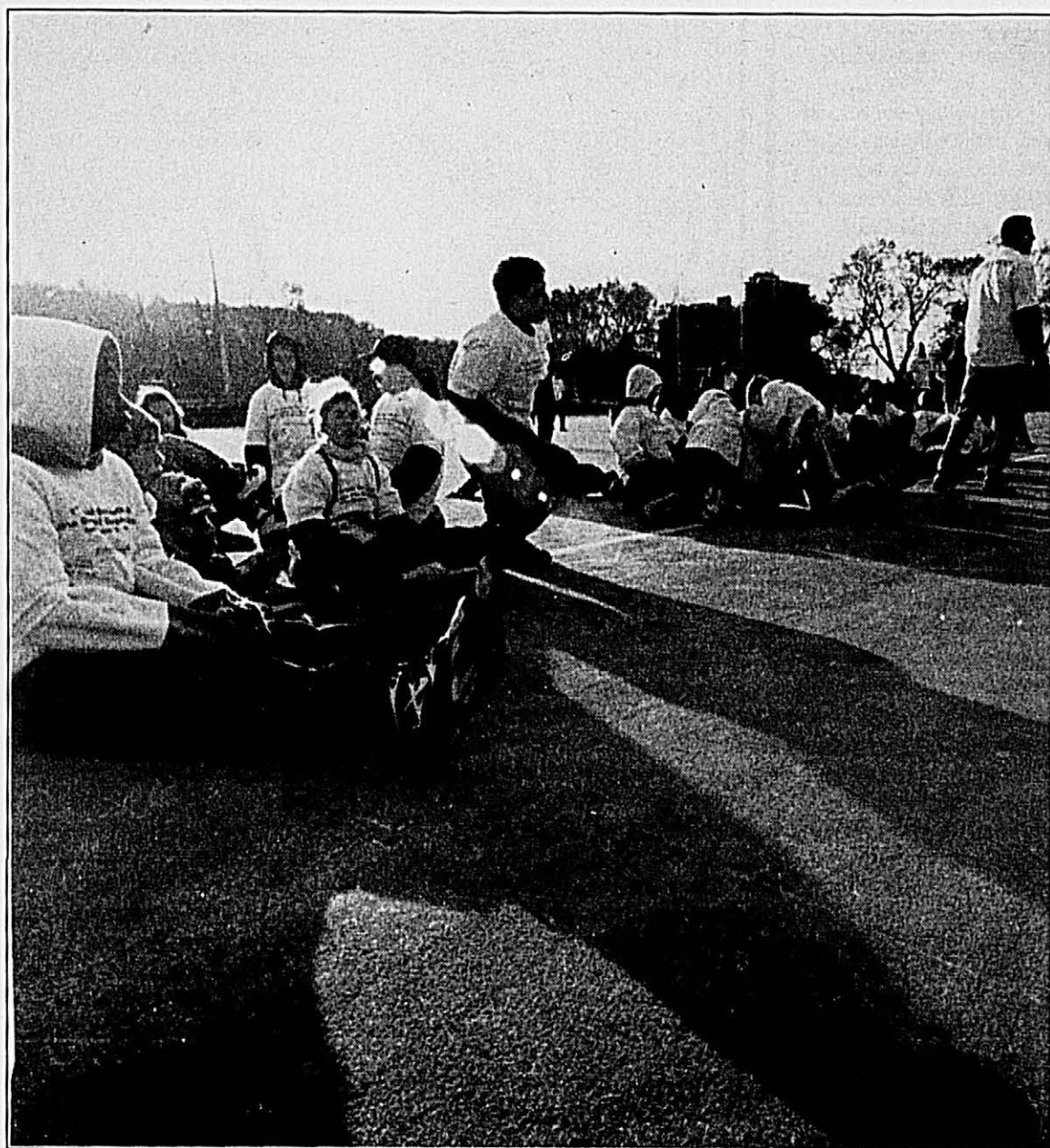
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MOVING OFF CAMPUS

Can fundraising be more than image-building?



PLAY DAY FOR FRAT BOYS

BY HYPATIA FRANCIS

If you were passing by Parc Jeanne-Mance a couple of weeks ago, you might have been surprised to see the sports field, normally used by local soccer teams, playing host to a sumo wrestling game, a three-legged race and a barbecue.

Alpha Delta Phi, a social fraternity, had teamed up with the Montréal branch of Sun Youth to put on a "play-day" for about 50 children.

While this fundraiser is praiseworthy, many people have expressed concern over frats and their fundraising activities.

Most social fraternities and sororities hold annual fundraisers, and these events generally spark as much criticism as they raise funds. Some question how well these groups understand the serious nature of the causes they choose.

As Sara Mayo, external coordinator of the McGill Women's Union pointed out, "There seems to be a casual, even flippant attitude in the methods used to raise funds." A notable example of this is a recent Nintendo marathon to raise money for arthritis sufferers.

Some speculate that such events are intended to seek positive publicity for the fraternities rather than simply raising awareness or funds for the charity. "In many cases," said Mayo, "the charity name is used to lend credibility to the fraternities."

In light of the problematic history which exists between the Students' Society and the Inter-Greek Letter Council, the governing body for

fraternities and sororities, this speculation is not unreasonable.

The Students' Society has consistently criticised the IGLC for discriminatory practices and as a result has refused to grant them club status. Last year, the IGLC appealed the denial of club status citing that, as a group, it is open to everyone.

According to Don McGowan, this is not entirely true. McGowan represented the Students' Society at the Judicial Board hearings last year when IGLC appealed the decision regarding their club status. Said McGowan, "Membership, voting procedure and the executive are all structured in favour of fraternities and sororities."

In other words, membership to IGLC is harder to attain for non-fraternity or sorority members.

The Students' Society's reluctance to grant IGLC club status dates back to 1988 and 1989 when allegations of gang rapes surfaced against two fraternities. The Inter-Fraternity Council, a predecessor to the IGLC, reacted by initially standing in solidarity with the accused fraternities. This caused student resentment toward the organisation.

The members of the IGLC are still dealing with the tainted reputation which resulted from the allegations and the events surrounding them. But, said McGowan, "It's going to take a lot of Nintendo to get around something like that."

Jeff Fixman, who organised this month's Alpha Delta Phi's fundraiser for Sun Youth, said that the problems with the Students' Society have had little to do with his fraternity's community work. For Fixman, the fundraiser was a success, not because of the publicity surrounding it but, "because of the smiles on the kids' faces."

What was unusual about Alpha Delta Phi's fundraiser was that this year they took the step of getting involved with the group for which they were raising funds. Over a period of eight weeks, the frat's members went to Sun Youth and worked with the children there. The program was called "Pals."

Pals began to take shape this summer when Jeff Fixman, the fraternity's fundraising coordinator, was planning the annual fundraising event. "I really wanted the money to go to an organisation which benefits children," said Fixman.

Combining the fundraiser with a buddies program was the suggestion of Sun Youth coordinators. "We always need extra volunteers," commented Michael Clark, Sun Youth's recreational animator. Alpha Delta Phi readily accepted this plan and Pals was instituted.

While this program has officially drawn to a close, many members are continuing their work with Sun Youth and are planning to return next semester. Both Sun Youth and Alpha Delta Phi are hoping to continue the Pals program next year.

Towards a different McGill

Bruce Trigger critical of university's direction

BY KATHLEEN FREDERICKSON

Professor Bruce Trigger does not believe that the academic community can sit and watch while others decide the fate of our university system. Trigger presented his views last Tuesday in a lecture entitled "Our Self-Betrayal: A Loss of Vision Inside the Academy".

In light of Principal Bernard Shapiro's recent proposals to reform the university, Trigger's remarks are especially pertinent. While Trigger did not discuss Shapiro's *Towards a New McGill* memorandum explicitly, some of his ideas obviously stand in contrast to Shapiro's proposals.

First of all, his ideas seem to contradict the high speed and degree of change suggested by *Towards a New McGill*. "Slow incremental change is likely to be more effective than radical change," he said. "When you try to

change things for the sake of changing them, you end up with messes."

Moreover, Trigger believes that any changes to McGill's structure ought to be made through existing structures on the level at which the changes are taking place, namely specific faculties and departments. More specifically, he opposes the "ad hoc committees" that are struck whenever a crisis appears.

In addition, he disagrees with the notion of downsizing the university — another suggestion put forth in *Towards a New McGill*, and described what he calls the "close connection between university size and excellence." According to Trigger, much knowledge and debate is produced from chance encounters and discussions between members of the academic community. This community, he argues, can not be as diverse or rich in a significantly smaller university.

He also says he believes in maintaining autonomous university research, as opposed to current suggestions about research partnerships with the private sector. "The necessity of cooperating with business undermines the autonomy of ideas," he said. He argued that in today's "neo-conservative world," the university is far too driven by market forces. These forces, he continued, are focused only on short-term solutions and lock the university into a "utilitarian ethos that still haunts us."

"It is essential that we reshape a hostile environment that threatens our ideals," he added.

Many argue that, given federal transfer cuts to post-secondary education, such partnerships with business are financially sensible and even financially necessary. To such claims, Trigger responded that there is

no reason to accept the government cuts without a fight.

"To abandon the fight for lack of ideals is to deserve to lose," he said. He added that it is important to convince the public and government officials that the university system is worth funding. "We are, after all, teachers," he remarked.

And for Trigger, teaching should extend beyond the classroom and into the community. He stressed the need to manipulate pressure from outside instead of accepting it as a given.

"I find the present model [of bringing about change] to be a quite frightening one," he reflected during a question and answer session after his lecture. Perhaps as a newly elected member of McGill's Board of Governors, Trigger will be able to change the method we have for dealing with change itself.

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

Monday

• The McGill Debating Union holds its weekly Monday meeting, same time, NEW PLACE: 18h at 550 Sherbrooke, rm. 1109. All welcome.

Tuesday

• Volunteer Opportunities in Guatemala, a presentation by Sebastien Hade-Hetu and Karine Frisou at 18h30 in Shatner Cafeteria.

Wednesday

• L'Association Rochambeau and La Sphère Francophone invite you to a party at Gert's at 21h. Drink specials all night. The goal is to improve

Francophone/Anglophone relations. All welcome!

• McGill Renewal Club presents Arnold August who will speak on what students, faculty, and staff can do to participate in governance and have control over their lives. 16h-18h. Shatner B-09. Info: 421-2400

• The Quality of Student Life Committee is running a survey about important issues on campus. Everyone welcome at 19h in Shatner B-10. There will also be a suggestion Box at the SSMU information desk in Shatner Lobby.

• The United Nations Students' Association of McGill presents a

public lecture by Harry Wu: "Six years after Tiananmen Square — a personal reflection on human rights." 19h, Leacock, room 132, 855 Sherbrooke St. W. \$8.00; Reserve tickets at 398-6824.

Friday

• The Association for Bahá'í Studies of McGill presents Bill Ekomiak, an Inuit Bahá'í speaking on the Religions of the Native North Americans. 16h, Arts Building, Room 230, 845 Sherbrooke Street West.

• The McGill Debating Union's annual Fall in-house tournament continues and ends. Pairings at 17h30 in Leacock 15,

rounds begin at 17h45. All welcome.

• QPIRG Volunteer, 17h-19h pm, 3647 University Street. Everyone welcome.

Ongoing

• Loaf Organic Food Co-op orders produce and bulk dried goods on Mondays, 11h30 - 17h30, at QPIRG office, 3647 University St. Contact: Rebecca French or Melanie Fearon, 398-7432.

• The McGill Department of English Students' Journal welcomes submissions of poetry, short fiction, essays, photography and (two dimensional) visual art from McGill students. Place submissions in DESA box

in the Porter's Office in the Arts Building by December 15. Include name, phone number on separate sheet of paper. Submissions will be considered for Literary Festival.

• The Montréal Children's Hospital Christmas Cards, designed by children in and around Montréal, will be on sale at these locations: November 20 to December 1 at Concordia University, November 20 to November 27 at Dorval Gardens Shopping Centre, November 20 to November 26 at Fairview Shopping Centre, November 20 to December 16 at Montreal Children's Hospital, 2300 Tupper St. Info: 934-4400 - ext. 2634.

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

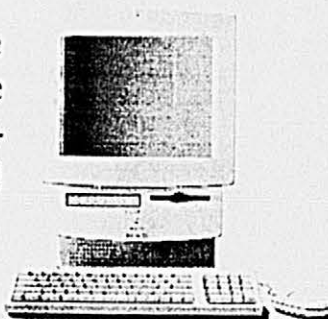
WIN!

The McGill Computer Store is having another food drive! Donate non-perishable food items for a chance to **WIN!** great prizes! Last spring our food drive collected over 600 pounds of food and this Christmas, we would like to try for 1000 pounds. That's more than 43 pounds a day.

So bring in an article of non-perishable food and help make Christmas a bit brighter for people in need. The food collected will be donated to Auberge Transition (a shelter for battered women and their children) and Les enfants de l'espoir (an organization that helps families in crisis). Because both these organizations tend to many very young babies, donations of baby food would be greatly appreciated.



Plus, donate and let us make Christmas a bit more exciting for you. You have the chance to **WIN!** many great prizes. Among these prizes is an Apple Macintosh Performa Computer, as well as software packages, T-shirts, and more.



MCS

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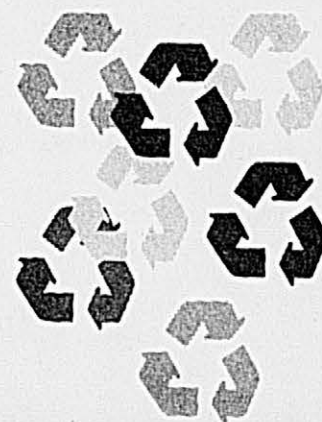
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Standing up before

Ken Saro-Wiwa and

BY M-J MILLOY

Even the means of his death, like the forces and people that brought him to that point, was disgraceful.

Just after dawn on November 10, Ken Saro Wiwa was led to a gallows in the prison yard of the small jail in Port Harcourt, a town in the Niger Delta that had been the centre of the struggle for justice for the Ogoni people.

His family had been denied a last visit, and Saro-Wiwa spent his final night in leg irons in a small cell.

As the dawn spread over Port Harcourt, it illuminated the soldiers and tanks at every street-corner, ready to violently put down any attempt to mark the execution of Ogoniland's leader.

For the last two years, Saro Wiwa — a Nobel Prize nominee, and the author of more than a dozen plays and novels — had, as the head of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mosop), spearheaded the drive of the Ogoni people for self-determination.

For forty years the Ogoni have been the victims of environmental genocide. Their land, rich in oil, has become the site of over 100 oil wells which have poisoned the Ogoni territory. Denied even a portion of the fruits of the lucrative drilling, they exist in marginal poverty on poisoned ground.

Saro-Wiwa assumed the leadership of Mosop as the United Nations Year of Indigenous People began in 1993. In his first appearance as leader, 300 000 Ogoni marched in a non-violent protest against the presence of the transnational company, Shell Oil, the largest oil driller in Nigeria.

More protests and marches eventually culminated in Shell's withdrawal from Ogoniland. But the victory was costly to the Ogoni, and it would be brief.

Saro-Wiwa was detained often as the military began an offensive to crush Ogoni resistance. Villages were emptied at gun point, or attacked in the dead of night.

Finally, as the attacks increased in viciousness and regularity, Saro-Wiwa was detained on charges of inciting the murder of four of his own people, the sons of prominent Ogoni leaders.

After a trial that was condemned by all observers as only a preface to an execution, Saro-Wiwa was sentenced by a military tribunal, with no right of appeal, to death.

And so Saro-Wiwa, along with eight other Ogoni leaders, was led into the prison courtyard in leg irons, to the gallows.

After the nine men were killed by hanging, their bodies were taken down,

thrown in the back of a garbage truck, and buried under tight security in unmarked graves. Their families were barred from the cemetery.

Saro-Wiwa's final words will forever hang over the events of that day, and all of the events which led up to his death.

As he was led to the gallows, he reportedly asked: "What kind of a

"For one single pipeline in Britain, Shell conducted 17 environmental impact assessments. The Ogoni have never seen a single impact report."

— report from Human Rights Africa

country is this?"

Black rain falls on their land

In the future the execution of Saro-Wiwa might be remembered as a turning point in Nigerian history. It might be seen as the last chance for peace for a nation looted by the military as foreign governments and multinationals watch from the sidelines.

All of the problems that plague Nigeria — political corruption, economic collapse, foreign multinationals, repression of minority peoples — are a part of the reasons for the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa's.

On the surface, the execution of Saro-Wiwa was the culmination of a three year campaign by the Nigerian generals to crush, by any means necessary, Ogoni resistance to the

Throughout the history of the Nigerian federation, the Ogoni's only connection to the events in the capital has been the occasional presence of the military, and the continual presence of oil derricks.

extraction of oil on their land.

But many believe the execution was also brought about because Saro-Wiwa demanded that the Ogoni have a voice in the politics of Nigeria. There is also substantial proof that Shell wanted Saro-Wiwa killed to consolidate its control on the lucrative oil supply.

For almost forty years, oil has been the lifeblood of the Nigerian economy, accounting for almost 80 per cent of Nigeria's economic activity.

Oil was discovered in Ogoniland in 1958. Although it was the first and richest find in Nigeria, the Ogoni people were denied any benefits from the economic development.

Oil production in the Ogoni territory is controlled by Shell Petroleum Development Corporation, Shell's corporation in Nigeria, in a joint-venture with the state-owned Nigerian national petroleum corporation. They have established almost 100 wells.

The Ogoni's only income from the massive extraction of oil — estimated to have had a value of \$US 30 billion since 1958 — has been a ruined ecosystem, destroyed cropland and a shattered traditional economy.

"Black rain falls on their land, destroying their crops. Water courses are polluted," said Greenpeace.

Between 1976 and 1991, Greenpeace reports that there have been "almost 300 separate oil spills, on average 700 barrels each".

These spills alone have created what the Wall Street Journal called "a ravaged environment". But the effect of the operations has gone far beyond environmental distress.

With their traditional lifestyle of fishing and farming destroyed by contamination, many Ogoni communities are forced "to import food from outside the region in order to survive," according to Greenpeace.

Ogoni communities have also suffered from the blatant neglect of the federal government. Although the riches extracted from Ogoniland have kept the Nigerian economy afloat, the Ogoni "suffer from rampant poverty, and a lack of basic services," according to a report from the Goldman Environmental Institute.

A report from Human Rights Africa points out that the environmental devastation created by Shell is a product of the company's racist double-standard.

"For one single pipeline in Britain, Shell conducted 17 environmental impact assessments," the report observed.

"The Ogoni have never seen a single impact report," it said.

Little political influence

But environmental trauma alone is not sufficient to explain the situation in Nigeria. The environmental situation has come about not only because of Shell's racist double standard, but also due to

the political opportunism of the Nigerian elite.

The Ogoni are one of almost two hundred ethnic groups that inhabit the Nigerian federation. Although small in number — about 500,000 in a land of almost 100 million — they live in the prime oil producing region of Nigeria.

When the British established the Nigerian protectorate in the early twentieth century, they created a colonial state out of a collection of autonomous, self-governing societies.

In typical British imperial fashion, the Ogoni, as a small minority group, were left out of the country's political structure. Instead, the powerful northern ethnic groups, particularly the Yoruba and the Hausa, were used by the British in their policy of indirect rule.

Even after Nigeria won its independence from Britain in 1960, the new federal structure retained Yoruba dominance. The Ogoni were again marginalised. With little political influence, the Ogoni were powerless to stop the environmental destruction of their land.

This pluri-ethnic nature of the Nigerian state has continued to create political instability.

Originally, the Nigerian federation was composed of four states, each dominated by a large ethnic group. Ethnic rivalry, compounded by the unequal federal system, led to the Biafran civil war in 1970.

In 1993, after large civil unrest partially caused by the social effects of an International Monetary Fund Structural Adjustment Plan, General Babangida, then Prime Minister, called a general election.

But the winner of the election, Chief Mashood Abiola, was not acceptable to the military elite, who again seized power in November of 1993, under the leadership of General Sani Abacha.

Throughout the history of the Nigerian federation, the Ogoni's only connection to the events in the capital has been the occasional presence of the military, and the continual presence of oil derricks.

Created divisions

When Saro-Wiwa assumed the leadership of Mosop in late 1992, he found an environment destroyed and a people politically marginalised, in a country rapidly collapsing under the strains of foreign debt and political corruption.

But from the start, the Ogoni's non-violent protests were met with violence, either directly from federal forces, or indirectly through government sympathisers.

In April of 1993, "10 000 Ogoni people protested at Nonwa against the construction of a pipeline by the American contracting firm Willbros on behalf of Shell," reported Amnesty International. They were fired on by Nigerian soldiers and 10 people were killed.

But the most effective form of government action against the Ogoni has been indirect. In a style reminiscent of the British imperial policy of ruling by dividing ethnic groups against each other, the Nigerian state has attempted to foment division between the Ogoni and other local ethnic groups. They also have tried to split the Ogoni internally — a tactic that would culminate in Saro-Wiwa's hanging.

In July of 1993, the federal forces blockaded Ogoniland,



with the excuse that they needed to maintain peace and order in the face of Ogoni unrest. No sooner had they sealed off the region when attacks against the Ogoni increased.

Over 20 Ogoni villages were attacked under cover of darkness and over 1000 Ogoni were killed or forced to flee into the jungle.

The government was quick to attribute the attack to an "ethnic clash between the Ogoni and the Andoni," a neighboring ethnic group.

But this was immediately discounted by almost everyone on the ground in Ogoniland. Saro-Wiwa interviewed an inhabitant of Kaa, an Ogoni village, who reported that "There was no quarrel

The history and the struggle for Ogoniland

between the Ogoni and the Andoni. This was all designed by the government."

This report was backed up by Professor Claude Ake, from the UN World Commission on Development and Culture, who noted that "there is really no reason why it should be an ethnic clash... there was nothing in dispute in the sense of territory or rights," between the Ogoni and the Andoni.

As the provocations against the Ogoni continued, Nigeria continued to slide into political collapse. A military coup brought Abacha to power in November of 1993, as Moshood Abiola, the victor of the last general election — annulled by the military — remained in prison, charged with treason.

Escalated terror

are throwing grenades and they are making *eekpuwaa*... and they know I am around. What do you think the people are going to do? The option we have made was that we should drive all these people into the bush with nothing except the pants and the wrapper they are using that night," he said.

But Okuntino's tactics, while brutal, were unable to silence the Ogoni protests.

As attacks against Ogoni communities continued, the government began to try to discredit the Ogoni leadership, particularly Saro-Wiwa.

Wole Soyinka, the Nobel Prize winning author, provided his assessment of the government strategy.

"The purpose of Abacha's bloody scheme was straightforward: to make it impossible for the victims of oil exploitation to present a united front," he wrote.

When this scheme failed, and the Ogoni continued their resistance to oil exploitation, "the next stage was to set the final seal of doom on the Ogoni," turn them against themselves, and destroy the Ogoni leadership, according to Soyinka.

This was done with the murder of the sons of four Ogoni leaders. They were hacked to death by assailants, and their car set alight as they returned from a political meeting.

Upon his return to Ogoniland, Saro-Wiwa was arrested for the murders of the four sons. Although he was not in Ogoniland at the time of the deaths, the military regime accused him of having the boys killed.

"The only sins of the great four was that they disagreed with Ken Saro-Wiwa over tactics, and were to pay dearly with their own lives. The build-up to this tragic end was written, sealed and delivered by Ken Saro-Wiwa," said an official statement from the Nigerian government, released from their embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, after Saro-Wiwa's execution.

"He produced the monster that eventually consumed him," it said.

"The penalty has been duly imposed. And there is no apology to offer anyone."

Shell complicit

Far from being a victim of his own crimes, other documents pertaining to the death of Saro-Wiwa indicate that his death came about because of a coordinated campaign of the Nigerian generals and Shell.

There is considerable evidence that

oil companies were the prime reasons for the escalation of violence against the Ogoni throughout 1994.

As 1994 began, Shell reported that it had sustained large economic losses during the previous year, due to "unfavorable conditions in the areas of operations."

Because of these unfavourable conditions, there is evidence to suggest that they put pressure on the Nigerian government to intensify violent tactics against the Ogoni.

In May, 1994, a leaked memo from the Police Commissioner called on all branches of the military and the police to "restore and maintain law and order in Ogoni land."

The reason given was to ensure that "non-indigenous residents [can] carry out business ventures in the region... and are not molested."

An even more sinister memo, in which Shell is directly mentioned, was written on the 15th of May. It explains that "Shell operations are still impossible unless ruthless military operations are undertaken for smooth economic activities to commence." The document recommends the "wasting" of Ogoni leaders. It was signed by Lt. Col. Okuntino, the mastermind of the village clearance campaigns in the Ogoni territory.

Seven days later, four Ogoni sons were dead and Saro-Wiwa was arrested. Eighteen months later, he is dead.

International community complacent

As his execution recedes into the past, many people are beginning to ask the same question that Saro-Wiwa proposed minutes before his death.

Despite international outrage, the Nigerian military remains defiant. Commodore Victor Ombu said that Nigeria would "educate the leaders who were hoodwinked into taking their [critical] positions" about Saro-Wiwa's death.

Equally defiant is Shell, who is poised to resume drilling in Ogoniland after a three year absence.

Incredibly, Shell announced a new investment in Nigeria just days after Saro-Wiwa was executed. They will build a \$US 4 billion dollar liquefied natural gas plant in Nigeria, to be opened in 10 years time.

Some foreign leaders are calling for an embargo on the precious resource at the centre of the situation: oil.

South African President Nelson Mandela, who had pursued a strategy of "quiet diplomacy" towards Nigeria, greeted news of the execution with

outrage.

"To a hardened man like Abacha, he will not be moved unless some sanctions are applied," said Mandela.

The European Parliament has also called for an embargo, but has not forced its member states to comply.

But not every foreign leader is in

"The option we have made was that we should drive all these people into the bush with nothing except the pants and the wrapper they are using that night."
— Lt. Col. Paul Okuntino of the Rivers State Internal Security Task Force

favour of an immediate oil embargo.

Although the American foreign policy spokesmen described the execution of Saro Wiwa as "an abomination and an affront to civilized behavior around the world," the American government refused to impose sanctions. With embargoes already in place against Libya and Iraq, an embargo on Nigerian oil would have a large effect on domestic oil prices, according to sources quoted in the *Washington Post*.

Canadian Prime Minister Chretien, during the Commonwealth leaders conference two weeks ago, issued a condemnation of the Nigerian military, and a call for limited economic actions. His stance was welcomed by most African nations. His call for any economic actions is, however, particularly ironic after his administration's policy of condemning

"What is happening to the Ogoni is not only the fault of Nigeria and Shell; the international community has played a significant role."

— Ken Saro-Wiwa

human rights abuses — as in China and Burma — but refusing to limit trade. Yet, Chretien refused to declare a unilateral oil embargo.

Saro-Wiwa, before his death, maintained that sanctions would be a forceful means of creating change within Nigeria.

"What is happening to the Ogoni is not only the fault of Nigeria and Shell; the international community has played a significant role" by continuing to buy Nigerian oil, according to Saro-Wiwa.

"If the Americans did not buy the oil, the Nigerian nation... would not have the wherewithall to continue their genocidal tendencies."

Who's on trial?

Although the events in Nigeria are tragic and the actions of Shell and the Nigerian elite reprehensible, they are not unique.

Human Rights Africa concludes in its report on Nigeria that the situation is typical of the contact between multinational corporations and indigenous people in post-colonial states.

"Their actions denote a hypocritical approach to the value of human life and

the environment — actions routinely taken in Ogoniland would be unthinkable in the 'developed' countries of the North who buy most of Shell's oil. The devastation of Ogoni is also part of a familiar pattern. Through the exploitation of oil, the Ogoni's land, — their chief livelihood — is being poisoned. Soon they will have no choice but to become players in the economic system from which Shell derives its dominance," the report said.

As has been seen around the world, from Northern Alberta to the Amazon forests, the actions of global multinationals are not informed by the concerns of indigenous peoples. Moreover, national elites are usually only far too prepared to base national development strategies on resources which can be taken, at little political cost, from indigenous people.

But what has also been seen throughout the world, is that economic domination and political repression never occur without resistance.

The life and death of Ken Saro-Wiwa is infused with this dynamic.

In his final statement he made clear that he was not the only one on trial; rather it was the Nigerian nation and Shell who would be condemned at the end of the trial.

"Any nation which can do to the weak and disadvantaged what the Nigerian nation has done to the Ogoni, loses a claim to independence and to freedom from outside influence," he said.

"I call upon the Ogoni people to stand up now and fight fearlessly and peacefully for their rights. History is on their side," he said.



The ascent of Abacha escalated the level of violence against the Ogoni. Abacha appointed Lt. Col. Paul Okuntino of the Rivers State Internal Security Task Force to oversee the suppression of Ogoni protests and the resumption of oil extraction.

In a bizarre and chilling account, Okuntino described for American television network ABC his modus operandi in Ogoniland.

"I will just take some detachments of soldiers; they will stay at four corners of the town," he said.

"They have automatic rifles that sound as death. We shall surround the town at night. The machine gun with 500 rounds will open up and then we

Leave the Strait

B.C. groups say no to U.S. nuclear subs testing

BY SARAH O'DONNELL

VANCOUVER (CUP) — British Columbian peace and environmental groups say it is time for the American military to get its nuclear toys out of Canadian waters.

For the past 30 years, the nuclear threat has floated beneath the surface of Vancouver's Georgia Strait despite the city's declared nuclear-free status.

Since the mid 1960s, the federal government has allowed the American navy to test their nuclear submarines at the Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental and Test Ranges (CFMETR) in Nanoose Bay, approximately 15 miles west of Nanaimo, on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

That agreement is up for renewal next year, and B.C. peace and environmental activists are urging the federal government to drop its plans to extend the arrangement for another ten years.

Michael Candler, coordinator of the Nanoose Conversion Campaign, says CFMETR is a relic from the Cold War era.

"People here do not believe in nuclear power, and yet the federal government is forcing us to live with a threat of a nuclear accident in our waters," Candler said.

An average of one American nuclear submarine visits CFMETR every nine days, where the U.S. navy uses the facility's underwater test range to test its submarine warfare technology.

Data collected at CFMETR, for example, was used to design the naval version of the cruise missile.

Although CFMETR is maintained by the Canadian government, Steve Staples, coordinator of End the Arms Race, says 75 per cent of the testing is done by the American navy who do not have to take any responsibility for their actions in Canadian territory.

American ships are exempt from Canadian environmental laws, and Staples says torpedoes have been known to go haywire and run completely off course during tests.

"There have been cases where torpedoes have washed up on shore," Staples said. "They've lost them and they've washed up on someone's beach front."

The hazards posed by nuclear-powered subs in the Georgia Strait go beyond an occasional stray torpedo. Several million people who live in Victoria, Nanaimo, the Sunshine Coast and the Lower Mainland are put at risk of a catastrophic nuclear accident everyday.

"What we're primarily afraid of happening would be a leak of radiation; a fire on board one of the subs that resulted in the release of a radioactive cloud," Staples said.

Depending on wind conditions, Staples says such a cloud could kill as many as one million people in Victoria or even more if it were to blow over Vancouver.

In its own nuclear-emergency

response plan, CFMETR admits the possibility of "a release of radioactive particles into the atmosphere in the form of radioactive cloud."

Candler says the base tries to downplay the risk, without considering the effects on the surrounding civilian population.

"The worst thing that they could possibly think of in terms of an accident was [a radioactive cloud] that went 550 metres from the accident," Candler said.

"After Chernobyl, where the radioactive clouds went all around the world, to say that it's only going 550 metres is ridiculous."

Candler says the 550 metre estimate happens to coincide exactly with the distance to the nearest building at CFMETR.

"It was a paper exercise — it has nothing about helping people outside the base gates. They say that's not their responsibility."

The risk of a nuclear submarine accident is not just hypothetical. According to Staples, more than half of the nuclear power submarines at CFMETR have experienced accidents at some point in their career, leaking radioactive water or having small fires on board.

The most recent accident occurred when the Nemitz, a nuclear powered aircraft carrier, came up the Georgia

Strait, trailing a jet fuel spill three kilometres long and 100 yards wide.

"They didn't even know about it until a reporter was flying overhead in a helicopter and said 'What's that big oil spill behind the Nemitz?' The captain on board didn't even know about it," Staples said.

As the CFMETR agreement comes up for renewal in 1996, both Candler and Staples are lobbying the federal government to end the US testing and make the Canadian public aware of the nuclear machines in their waters.

The Nanoose Convention Campaign aims to end all weapons testing in the Georgia Strait, to end the agreement between the United States and Canada that allows the U.S. to perform weapons testing in the Strait, and to convert the facility at Nanoose Bay to peaceful, environmentally-secure uses.

"Last year Canada cancelled cruise missile testing and [the federal government's] stated reason was because the Cold War is over," Candler said. "Now we need to say the Cold War is over here, too."

Candler's message to the U.S. military is simple. "You should thank us that we put up with you for 30 years," he said.

"Now please get out."
Source: *The Ubyssy, University of British Columbia*



STUDENT PAPERS RUN TOBACCO ADS

Critics say ethics are going up in smoke

BY SAMER MUSCATI AND
STU CLARK

OTTAWA (CUP) — Student newspapers will be among the first Canadian media outlets to profit from a Supreme Court decision to overturn a ban on tobacco advertisements.

On Sept. 21, the Supreme Court of Canada lifted a seven year-old ban on tobacco advertising because it threatened the tobacco companies' right to free speech.

After pondering their options for a month, tobacco companies seem ready to take advantage of the decision and make a move on the student market.

RJR Macdonald Inc., which produces Export 'A' cigarettes, has approached the student press through Campus Plus, Canada's largest national advertising company for student newspapers.

Student papers in Ottawa and Windsor will accept the full-page advertisements which are due out later this month.

The two cities will serve as a test market for the tobacco corporation, and may open up the doors to national tobacco-advertising in student newspapers across the country.

"Depending on what kind of response they get to that advertising

will determine whether they roll it out into a national campaign," said Bill Cotric, executive director of Campus Plus. "I'm actually surprised at how quickly the [tobacco corporations] have jumped on to considering this type of thing."

Last Thursday, staff members at Carleton University's *The Charlantan* voted overwhelmingly in favour of accepting the advertisements, due mainly to economic considerations.

The full-colour ads will generate as much as an additional \$12 000 in revenue, says Jill Perry, business manager for *The Charlantan*.

Perry says that the advertisements are ethical, since the intentions of the tobacco corporation "are not to get people to smoke more, but to get people to switch brands."

Despite such arguments, not everyone agrees about the ads.

Charlantan staff writer Alex Bustos says it is ironic that his paper readily criticizes government cut-backs, and then places profit before its own principles.

"Social responsibility should come before financial responsibility," said Bustos. "We shouldn't support an organisation that's responsible for the

deaths of thousands of people."

Brett Ballah, editor in chief of *The Fulcrum*, agrees and hopes that other student papers do not sell out. The University of Ottawa newspaper is the only publication on the Campus Plus rate card to turn down the ads.

The *Fulcrum* set a policy of not accepting tobacco ads right after the supreme court decision in October.

"Student organisations shouldn't be soliciting these ads from the dark horses of society," said Ballah. "They're merchants of death... no business should advertise tobacco products, and especially not student newspapers."

However, Cheryl Clark, editor in chief of *The Lance* at the University of Windsor is puzzled that papers like the *Fulcrum* run advertisements from beer companies, but not from tobacco companies, since they are "the same thing."

"We thought it was censorship to not run tobacco ads," said Clark. "You're not putting a gun to anyone's head and saying 'smoke this cigarette.'"

But Ballah maintains that the health risks associated with smoking are much more conclusive and

harmful than alcohol.

Cigarettes cause more than 40 000 deaths a year in Canada alone, according to Maclean's magazine.

The Campus Network, another national advertising firm for student newspapers, has also received propositions from a tobacco company.

"Clearly this is a market they want," said Katherine Stewart, director of services for Campus Network. "People smoke at universities, we all know that."

Heather Selin, policy consultant for the Non-Smokers' Rights Association in Canada, says that it is unfortunate that campus papers may lead the way for tobacco advertising in the country.

She says that the youth market is incredibly important to the tobacco industry since 90 per cent of smokers start before the age of 19.

"Campuses have demonstrated leadership in other areas and this is an excellent opportunity for them to do so again," she said. "I hope they don't surrender to Canada's biggest drug lords."

Source: Ottawa bureau, National bureau



DAILY PHOTO BY MIKE CULLEN

Is McGill Accessible?

McGill's Office for Students with Disabilities does its best

BY MICAH TOUB

Although dealing with a small budget, the subcommittee for Persons with Disabilities is slowly trying to make McGill accessible for all students.

The subcommittee, part of McGill's Equity Committee, a joint Senate-Board of Governors committee, is budgeted \$100 000 each year to make the adaptations needed to make McGill accessible according to governmental standards. Unfortunately, that \$100 000 is not even enough to build one elevator, which costs about \$300 000.

In a document outlining its objectives, called the Five Year Plan, the committee lists all the adaptations needed. These include the building of 15 elevators, nine exterior entrances and seven interior ramps, pathways and elevator improvements. The plan also lists other current problems with the interiors of buildings. The cost of the Five Year Plan is estimated to be \$5 243 000.

Other sources needed for funds

Due to its small budget, the committee

must look to sources other than McGill for adequate funding.

Joan Wolforth, coordinator of the Office for Students with Disabilities, said McGill's Development Office is currently raising money to help the office purchase a new van.

Chuck Adler, the subcommittee's chair

added that Québec's Ministry of Education periodically gives the subcommittee money for renovations and adaptations. Last year, McGill received a large sum of money from the ministry, but has received none since. It is uncertain when they will again.

Unfortunately, the projects needed to make McGill accessible to all students was not included in the 21st Century Fund, a huge fundraising drive which has been undertaken by McGill over the past three years. The fund is aiming to raise \$200 000 000 by the end of this year, which marks the university's 175th anniversary.

"Our projects are too small to be included in the fund," Adler said.

Immediate accessibility concerns

Since the committee does not have enough money to go through with the majority of its projects, it has focused more on the immediate concerns of students currently attending McGill who need adequate access.

Nora Bednarski, a first year Law stu-

dent at McGill, is one such student. Aside from mentioning the fact that McGill is on a hill, which she calls "hill hell," Bednarski raised some other serious concerns. According to her, one of the biggest problems is that the Career and Placement Service (CAPS) in the Powell Building is inaccessible to students in wheelchairs.

"It is totally unacceptable. Students with disabilities need to get jobs. It's hard enough to find jobs that are accessible, so it makes it much harder when the place to go find jobs is not accessible."

Bednarski also points out that the Chancellor Day Hall Building, where her law classes are held, is also a partially inaccessible building. Among its problems are narrow doorways and a common room which is not accessible by elevator.

The law school bookstore also poses difficulties, and Bednarski has had to rely on other students to get books for her. Bednarski emphasises that having other people help her is only a temporary solution. "I want to be able to do things for myself," she says.

Work laid out for the committee

Adler said he realises there are a lot of problems with McGill's old buildings, like the Chancellor Day Hall Building and other small houses owned by McGill and used for classes along Peel. He says that until the whole campus is made accessible, problems with individual classroom accessibility will be dealt with on an individual basis. If a student with a disability can not attend a class due to

inaccessibility, its location may be changed to a more suitable venue.

Wolforth pointed out that another focus of the Office with Disabilities is the university's upper residences. Although the residences have elevators, Bishop Mountain Hall, where meals are served, is completely wheelchair inaccessible. Wolforth said the committee will try to make changes so that in the future anyone who wants to live in residence will be able to.

Along with accessibility improvements needed around physical disabilities, there is also much to do in the way of the other four categories of disability: visual, hearing, learning, and mental.

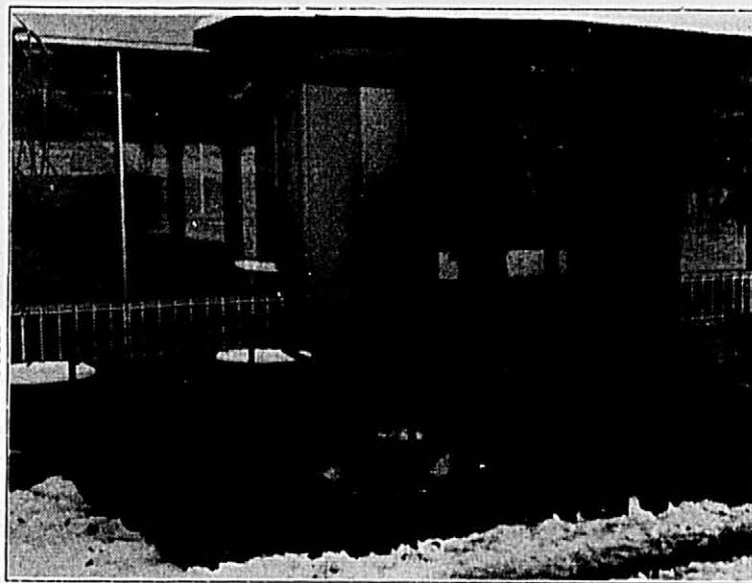
All together, there are 215 students at McGill classified as having a disability in one of these five categories.

Among the changes that need to be

made, braille signs need to be put up for visually impaired students and flashing fire alarms have to be added for those who cannot hear. "We're really far behind, but we're trying hard to make university accessible to everyone," Wolforth said.

Commenting on the committee, Bednarski said "They have been very helpful, especially with being quick to add automatic doors around campus. My impression so far is that the service is doing its job and making plans, but somehow the people who actually carry out the construction slow everything down." She added that she hopes the construction of the new Law library will take her and others into account.

Referring to the construction, Adler added "I will be in there making sure it is accessible."



DAILY PHOTO BY MIKE CULLEN

GARBAGE ON THE LINE

Québec's environmental groups push for hearing on waste management

BY ANUP GREWAL

Waste management in Québec, says Benoit Marin of Action Re-buts, is a big mess.

For this reason, more than 30 environmental and waste management lobby groups from the province gathered at Longueuil on November 11 to demand that the PQ government hold public hearings on waste management.

"The hour has come," reads a document from the Front commun québécois pour une gestion écologique des déchets (FCQGED), "to remind the government that it is now time again to take up the question of waste management in Québec."

In November 1994, during the provincial election, the PQ under the leadership of Jacques Parizeau promised to hold such a debate. Environmental groups had been calling for waste management to be put on the table for many years.

However, explains Marin, the PQ said

in June that the waste management hearings would have to wait until after the referendum on Québec's sovereignty.

Now that the referendum is over, Marin says "we are still waiting for a call."

The site of the demonstration, which was held in front of the trans-shipping centre of Intersan-Laidlaw, the garbage collection companies, was particularly symbolic.

According to the Front commun, close to 1.5 million tons of garbage from the greater Montréal region pass through the Longueuil centre before being shipped to landfills like the one at St. Nicéphore.

"A dozen private sites like this are to be found all over Québec without anyone being able to control them," says the Front commun.

Debate about waste policy needed

Critical of Laidlaw's recent purchase of another garbage transporting company, Phillip Environment, Sylvie Delisle from Action Environment Drummond reiter-

ated the need for a waste management debate in the province.

"Laidlaw has an assured quasi-monopoly on transport and transshipment of garbage in Québec. Only the public hearings can put an end to the exportation of garbage which is detrimental to certain

regions in the province," she said.

Right now in Québec, waste management laws are lax, says Marin. "Big companies with lots of money can find the loopholes in the regulations," and so they continue to dump their waste uncontrolled.

Marin points to the fact that landfill sites are bought cheaply in Québec and the fines placed on corporations who pollute are minimal.

"For a big company, it is cheaper to be charged for polluting than to change their methods of waste management," says Marin.

What is needed, he continues is for "the government to make new laws." And to do that, says Marin, "the government must understand what is going on with waste management right now."

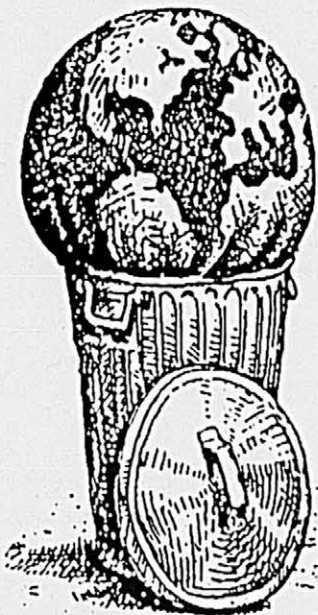
For Marin, it is the public hearings which must fulfill this function. "The hearings will put everything on the table and so it [is] important that all groups that want to protect the environment should be there."

The issues that environmental and waste management groups such as Action Re-buts want to see talked about include a limit to the amount of incinerators in the province, a greater emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling and issues of the importation and exportation of Québec's waste.

Marin notes that another issue which hasn't been considered properly in Québec is corporate responsibility to not pollute the environment. Marin says he hopes "the public hearings will talk about the responsibility of companies for producing unrecyclable, polluting products."

"Why shouldn't they [the government and corporations] consider ethics?" he asks.

Action Re-buts, as well as the other participants of the November 11 demonstration, expect to hear from the PQ that the hearings will begin in January or February. Marin considers the significance of the hearings, saying that they are important to "decide the future of Québec."



What e-mail users don't know:

Privacy not assured on McGill computing facilities

BY RACHEL DUDELZAK

Some issues at McGill drag on and on, while others cause a great outcry and then die because they lose visibility.

The Code of Conduct for Users of McGill Computing Facilities is hardly talked about anymore. In the summer of 1993, however, students expressed serious concern about Senate's proposed version of the Code, delaying its passage until this Fall.

While student protests did force a certain amount of change to the Code, its current version does not guarantee privacy of communication to users of McGill computer resources.

"A student... may not claim that communications made through the University are confidential," states article 12b of the June 1995 version of *Student Rights and Responsibilities*.

This means that any evidence garnered from personal computer files may be used against an individual student in a disciplinary hearing.

According to Alan Greenberg, director of computing and telecommunications at McGill, students' resentment of this policy was caused by "fear of the unknown" and "over-reaction", and for the most part was an "emotional matter".

"Students did raise some valid concerns," he continued, "and these have been suitably addressed."

But some students maintain that the new user guidelines would give the University unprecedented power to monitor students' computer use from within their accounts.

In a *Daily* article published November 8, 1993

journalist Max Francisco warned that, "The guidelines [are] an equivalent of an unrestricted search warrant on users' accounts."

Sacrificing student rights?

When the new Code was first proposed in 1993, VP Planning and Resources François Tavenas insisted that the guidelines were necessary to prevent sabotage and the information trade of banned material.

But some students still suggest that the current policy sacrifices the protection of student rights and freedoms. The treatment of e-mail accounts is just one example.

Greenberg does not regard e-mail as an essentially private form of communication. "To me, sending an e-mail is like sending a letter in an unsealed envelope: It is a bit more private than a postcard, but the information in it is still fairly accessible. Your e-mail can get misdirected, a letter meant for Joe will end up in Sally's mailbox, etc. Students should be fully aware that they cannot expect privacy from e-mail," says Greenberg.

Countered Computer Science Systems Manager Luc Boulianne, "E-mail is 'a letter in [an] unsealed envelope' only because system

administrators can look at it. If a system is properly configured, and the user addressed the message properly, e-mail misdirections do not occur."

"In fact, McGill now uses a software called PGP [which stands for 'Pretty Good Privacy'] by Phil Zimmerman that virtually guarantees security of person-to-person message passing," added Boulianne. This software can be obtained from the Internet for free and used by anyone for message encryption.

It must be acknowledged, however, that a system administrator does require a certain amount of access to private accounts in order to maintain the systems and troubleshoot. Furthermore, if an administrator is found to be abusing these privileges, he or she may be reprimanded and, possibly, fired.

It should also be noted that infringements of student privacy are most commonly carried out by students, not staff. Some students com-

promise their passwords unintentionally, either by giving them out or using someone else's. Others intentionally crack people's passwords and break into computer systems.

Nonetheless, the question of denying students fully private access to this increasingly popular means of communication remains.

No protest, no problem

Lisa Grushcow, vp university affairs of the Students' Society, agreed that there are problems with the Senate's Computer Code.

"There are two problems with the current policy on the use of computing facilities: for one, it does not properly address the privacy issue. For another, since the assumption of privacy in computer communications is rather inherent, few students are fully aware of the policy's implications."

Unfortunately, McGill is covered from every side. There is nothing illegal in its actions, since students who receive Internet access from McGill agree to its computing policies — thereby relinquishing their right to privacy of electronic communication.

While the Canadian Criminal Code does list the interception of commu-

nications intended as private as a criminal offense, the law does not apply in cases when the sender of the intercepted communication has previously agreed that certain persons would be able to view it.

In other words, as soon as students receive accounts from the Computing Centre, they authorize administrators to view their mail if necessary.

While the Canadian Criminal Code does list the interception of communications intended as private as a criminal offense, the law does not apply in cases when the sender of the intercepted communication has previously agreed that certain persons would be able to view it.

Moreover, students are caught in a "buyer beware" situation: the *Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook* includes the regulations for using McGill computing facilities. Unfortunately, many students never consult it.

Tavenas, who was directly involved in writing the Code of Conduct, admitted that the Code is "not ideal, but serves its purpose."

"The administration has to be able to protect members of [the] McGill community from those who misuse

computer resources and has to sacrifice a certain amount of privacy in order to achieve security," he added.

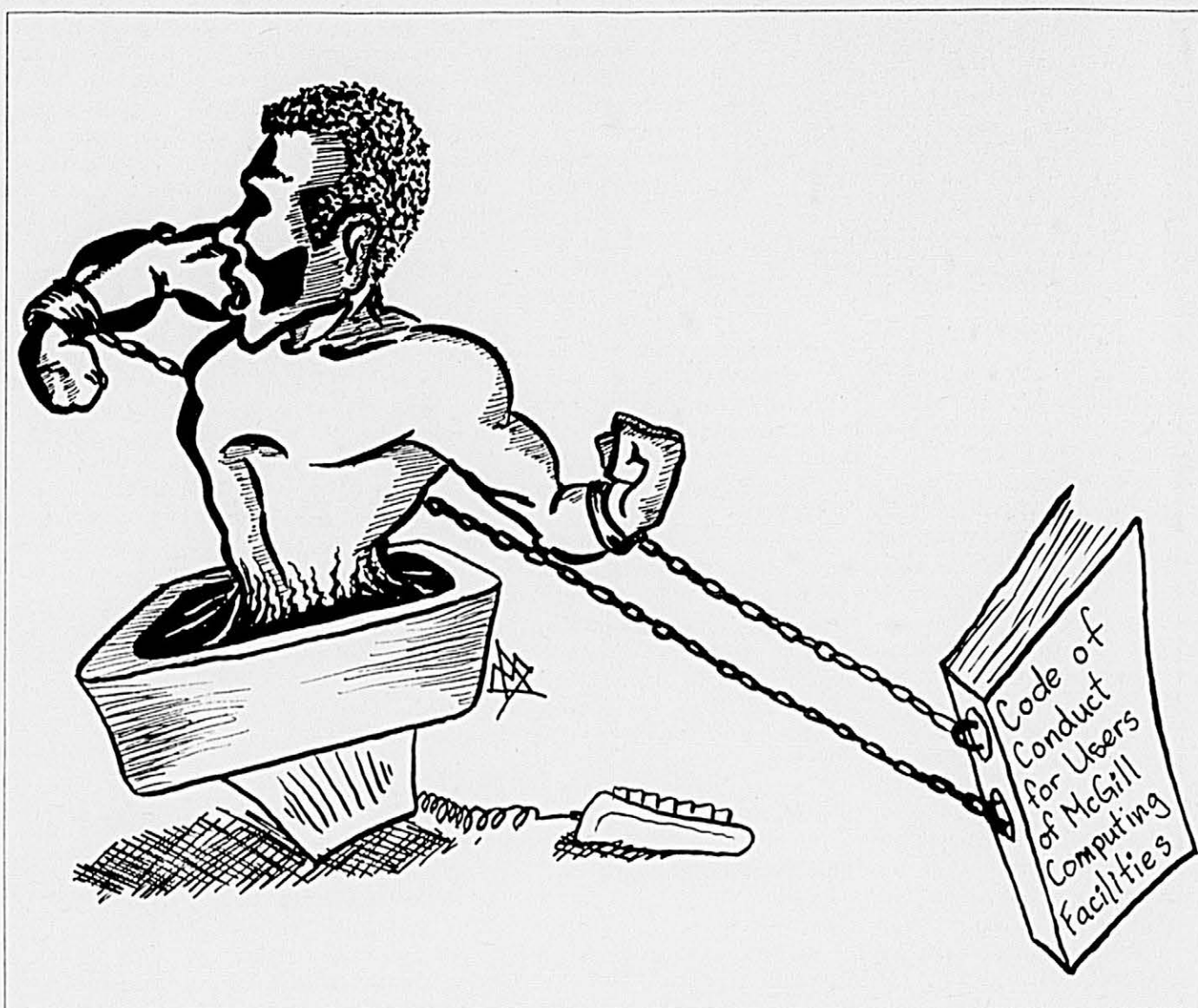
Stated Grushcow, "There is lots and lots that needs to be done about the policy on the use of computing facilities. The Senate, however, does not sit around looking to take up revision of some policy — our hands are full as it is. Unless students become concerned about the present policy, we are not likely to start doing anything about it."

In a recent interview with the *Daily*, Francisco expressed little hope that the Code would be changed any time soon. "I've been on the whole privacy issue since the start (1993). The whole thing

seems pretty dead now. The Senate has pretty much closed the issue, and it will be hard to raise it from the dead. Students give up on things after a while, and that's that."

If you would like to give your input on the Computing Code call Alan Greenberg, McGill's director of computing and telecommunications, at the university's Computing Centre, at 398-3705.

The complete text of the Code is in the handbook of *Student Rights and Responsibilities*.



DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO

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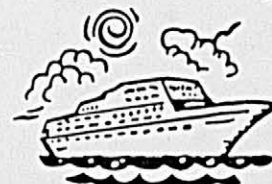
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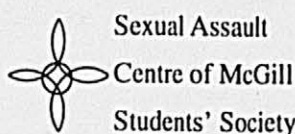


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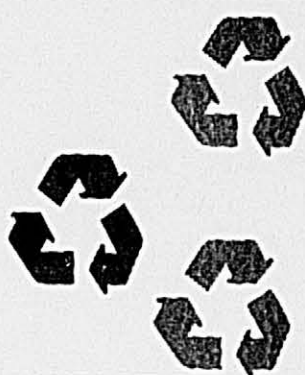
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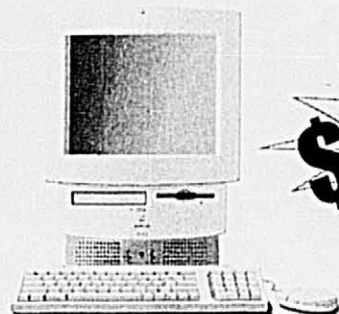
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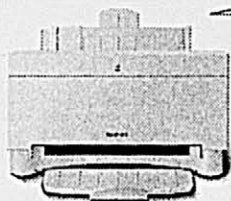
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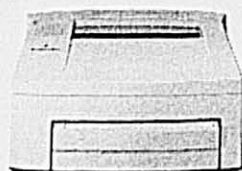
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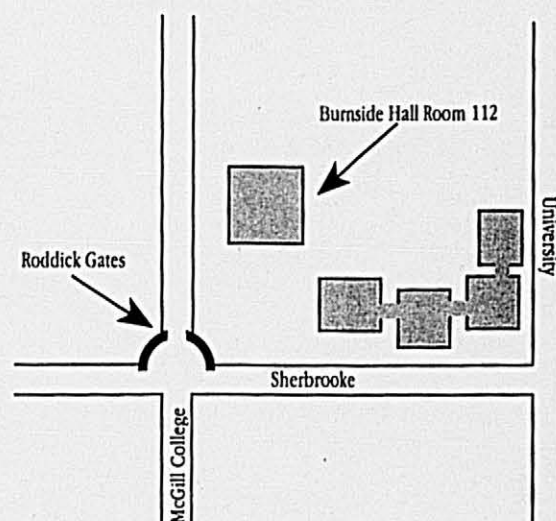
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